

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:  
receiving presentation content from an initiating client;  
identifying a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;  
distributing the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;  
~~invoking a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;~~  
after distributing the presentation content, receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation content but ~~separate~~ sent separately from the distributed presentation content, wherein the rule includes a rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise;  
 identifying a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule;  
 forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified subset of users;  
 receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise;  
identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and  
 sending the second message and the modified forwarded rule to the one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein the comment is displayed in the same display window as the collaborative discussion.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the comment is displayed using display attributes corresponding to a rule pen that includes one or more rules, one of the rules being the forwarded rule.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the rule sentence at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the modifying includes changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the received message is sent from a sending client, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes one or more rules, the forwarding rule being one of the rules.
9. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:  
one or more processors;  
a memory accessible by the processors;  
one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors; and

a collaborative discussion tool that identifies a subset of a plurality of users that correspond to a rule, the collaborative discussion tool comprising software code effective to:

receive presentation content from an initiating client;

identify a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;

distribute the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;

invoke a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;

after distributing the presentation content, receive a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation content but separate sent separately from the distributed presentation content, wherein the rule includes a rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise;

identify a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule;

forward the first message and the rule to the identified subset of users;

receive a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise;

identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

send the second message and the modified forwarded rule to the one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

10. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein the comment is displayed in the same display window as the collaborative discussion.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein 9 wherein the rule sentence ~~at least one of the rule sentences~~ includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function.
13. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the modifying includes changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule.
14. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the received message is sent from a sending client over the computer network, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes one or more rules, the forwarding rule being one of the rules.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer storage media, the computer storage media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method of rule pen based conversations in a synchronous collaborative environment, the method comprising:  
receiving presentation content from an initiating client;  
identifying a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;  
distributing the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;  
~~invoking a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;~~

after distributing the presentation content, receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation content but ~~separate~~ sent separately from the distributed presentation content, wherein the rule includes a rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise;

identifying a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule;

forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified subset of users;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise;

identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

sending the second message and the modified forwarded rule to the one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

16. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein the comment is displayed in the same display window as the collaborative discussion.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim [[18]] 15 wherein the rule sentence ~~at least one of the rule sentences~~ includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function.
19. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the modifying includes changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule.

20. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the received message is sent from a sending client, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes one or more rules, the forwarding rule being one of the rules.
21. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
- receiving presentation content from an initiating client;
  - identifying a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;
  - distributing the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;
  - ~~invoking a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;~~
  - after distributing the presentation content, receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences, and wherein one of the rule sentences is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise;
  - selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;
  - matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;
  - forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified user, wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise;

identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

sending the second message and the modified forwarded rule to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

receiving presentation content from an initiating client;

identifying a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;

distributing the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;

invoking a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;

receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users, the first message including a plurality of rule sentences, wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate sent separately from the distributed presentation;

selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified subset of users;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise; and

identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

sending the second message and the modified forwarded rule to the one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

23. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors; and

a collaborative discussion tool that identifies a subset of a plurality of users that correspond to a rule, the collaborative discussion tool comprising software code effective to:

receive presentation content from an initiating client;

identify a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;

distribute the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;

~~invoke a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;~~

after distributing the presentation content, receive a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule



sentences, and wherein one of the rule sentences is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise;

select a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

match each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forward the first message and the rule to the identified user, wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user;

receive a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise;

identify one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

send the second message and the modified forwarded rule to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer storage media, the computer storage media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method of rule pen based conversations in a synchronous collaborative environment, the method comprising:

receiving presentation content from an initiating client;

identifying a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;

distributing the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;

invoking a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;

after distributing the presentation content, receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences, and wherein one of the rule sentences is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise;

selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified user, wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise;

identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

sending the second message and the modified forwarded rule to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer storage media, the computer storage media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method of rule pen based conversations in a synchronous collaborative environment, the method comprising:
- receiving presentation content from an initiating client;
  - identifying a plurality of users for which to participate in the presentation content;
  - distributing the presentation content to the identified plurality of users;
  - ~~invoking a collaborative discussion by providing the distributed presentation from the server to the plurality of users;~~
  - receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users, the first message including a plurality of rule sentences, wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate sent separately from the distributed presentation;
  - selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;
  - matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;
  - forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified subset of users;
  - receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users, wherein the modified forwarded rule includes a different rule sentence that is selected from the group consisting of a different job description and a different expertise; and

identifying one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule; and

sending the second message and the modified forwarded rule to the one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.